



The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists

WOMEN'S HEALTH CARE PHYSICIANS

Senator Shirkey and members of the Michigan Competitiveness Committee:

The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG) is the professional organization of obstetrician-gynecologists in the United States, with more than 58,000 members nationwide, joined together with a goal of improving women's health. As premier women's health providers, we are very concerned about the proposed Medicaid work requirements and the negative impact they may have on the health of Michigan women and their families. [ACOG opposes SB 897 in its current form.](#)

Medicaid is a critical contributor to the health of women in Michigan. Medicaid covers nearly half of all births in Michigan (46% in 2015) and plays an essential role in ensuring healthy moms and babies. Women on Medicaid receive preventive health services including mammograms and pap smears, allowing women to avoid or detect cancers early, which saves Michigan women's lives. Medicaid also provides 75% of public family planning dollars, which play a critical role in helping Michigan couples build their families, and provides cost savings to the health system; *every \$1 of Medicaid funds spent on family planning saves Medicaid \$7.09.*

Medicaid is an important pathway to jobs and financial security for women and girls. Girls enrolled in Medicaid as children are more likely to attend college and experience upward mobility. Medicaid can help individuals deal with health problems that are a barrier to employment by providing access to preventive care, assisting in the management of chronic medical conditions, and providing treatment for health problems before they become more serious. Ohio found that after expanding Medicaid, three-quarters of adults who received coverage reported that having Medicaid facilitated their job search, and half said it made it easier for them to keep their job.

Nearly two-thirds of the beneficiaries that are at risk of losing coverage from a work requirement, like Senate Bill 897, are women. Women are more likely than men to be the primary caregivers of children, aging parents, or other families, and to work in low-wage jobs. While it contains an exception for parents of children under six, the proposed work requirements limit the activities that qualify as work in ways that discount or ignore women's unpaid, caregiving functions - work that is vital to the success of Michigan families.

The proposed work requirement adds administrative complexity for our patients, and administrative labor and cost to state government. . It would also pose a considerable paperwork burden for physicians who must provide documentation for their patients to prove they meet an exception to the requirements. These costs come without evidence that it will promote long term gains in employment. Work requirements in other safety net programs have not increased employment, and in fact many individuals and families were left worse off.

ACOG Michigan also opposes the proposed one-year disenrollment of Medicaid enrollees for failure to submit quarterly income reports or for inaccurately reporting income. This is too severe a penalty for failure to complete an administrative requirement. A "lockout" or disenrollment period on Medicaid eligibility deprives beneficiaries of a reliable health care safety net, and would negatively impact their health

As written, Senate Bill 897 is a threat to the health and economic security of women and families in Michigan. As experts in women's health, and advocates for vulnerable patients and their families, the ACOG is opposed to the work requirements proposed in SB 897. ACOG **OPPOSES** SB 897 as written.

Sincerely,

Halley Crissman, MD, MPH, Michigan Junior Fellow Advocacy Chair

Matthew T. Allswede, MD, Michigan Section Chair

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